



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

APPLICANT: Nish et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/669,159

FILED: 9/23/2003

CONFRM. NO.:

FOR: INTERNAL BEAM BUOYANCY SYSTEM  
FOR OFFSHORE PLATFORMS

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: Dec 29, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Garron M. Hobson

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

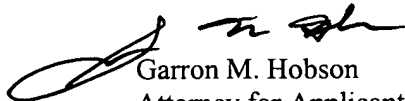
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted with priority Application Number 10/349,476, filed January 21, 2003, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 29 day of December, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 22, 2003

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/669,159 filed 09/23/2003  
Applicant: Nish et al.  
Title: **INTERNAL BEAM BUOYANCY SYSTEM FOR OFFSHORE  
PLATFORMS**  
Group Art Unit:  
Attorney Docket No. 21258.CIP

Sir/Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 is an  
Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§  
1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 list of 63 references submitted for consideration.
- ☐ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the  
possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. §  
1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

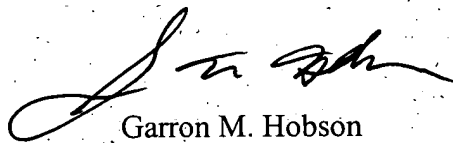
- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☒ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the priority Application Number 10/349,476, filed January 21, 2003, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2).
- ☐ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Statement meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

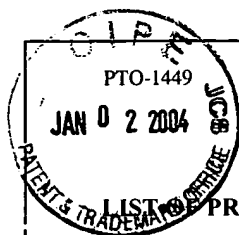


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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
21258.CIP

SERIAL NO.  
10/669,159

**LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT**

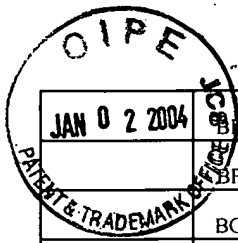
APPLICANT NISH, et al.

FILING DATE  
September 23, 2003

GROUP

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	Re. 28,966	09/21/76	BLOCKWICK			
	AB	3,470,838	10/07/69	DANIELL			
	AC	3,858,401	01/06/75	WATKINS			
	AD	3,933,108	01/20/76	BAUGH			
	AE	3,952,526	04/27/76	WATKINS et al.			
	AF	3,957,112	05/18/76	KNIBBE et al.			
	AG	3,992,889	11/23/76	WATKINS et al.			
	AH	4,078,605	03/14/78	JONES			
	AI	4,099,560	07/11/78	FISCHER et al.			
	AJ	4,176,986	12/04/79	TAFT et al.			
	AK	4,256,417	03/17/81	BOHANNON			
	AL	4,390,186	06/28/93	MCGEE et al.			
	AM	4,398,487	08/16/83	ORTLOFF et al.			
	AN	4,448,266	05/15/84	POTTS			
	AO	4,470,722	09/11/84	GREGORY			
	AP	4,474,129	10/02/84	WATKINS et al.			
	AQ	4,511,287	04/16/85	HORTON			
	AR	4,596,531	06/24/86	SCHAWANN et al.			
	AS	4,604,961	08/12/86	ORTLOFF et al.			
	AT	4,606,673	08/19/86	DANIELL			
	AU	4,616,707	10/14/86	LANGNER			
	AV	4,630,970	12/23/86	GUNDERSON et al.			
	AW	4,634,314	01/06/87	PIERCE			
	AX	4,646,840	03/03/87	BARTHOLOMEW et al.			
	AY	4,648,747	03/10/87	WATKINS et al.			
	AZ	4,652,022	03/24/87	NICHOLS			
	BA	4,702,321	10/27/87	HORTON			
	BB	4,740,109	04/26/88	HORTON			
	BC	4,768,455	09/06/88	MAXSON et al.			
	BD	4,808,034	02/28/89	BIRCH			



BE	4,821,804	04/18/89	PIERCE			
BF	4,934,871	06/19/90	KAZOKAS, JR.			
BG	5,044,828	09/03/91	BERNER, JR. et al.			
BH	5,098,132	03/24/92	BURTON			
BI	5,330,294	07/19/94	GUESNON			
BJ	5,368,648	11/29/94	SEKIZUKA			
BK	5,421,413	06/06/95	ALLEN et al.			
BL	5,431,511	07/11/95	GUY			
BM	5,439,060	08/08/95	HUETE et al.			
BN	5,439,321	08/08/95	HUNTER			
BO	5,447,392	09/05/95	MARSHALL			
BP	5,542,783	08/06/96	POLLACK			
BQ	5,558,467	09/24/96	HORTON			
BR	5,651,709	07/29/97	NANDAKUMAR et al.			
BS	5,771,975	06/30/98	ANDERSON et al.			
BT	5,823,131	10/20/98	BOATMAN et al.			
BU	5,881,815	03/16/99	HORTON, III			
BV	5,984,584	11/16/99	MCMILLAN et al.			
BW	6,000,422	12/14/99	SHIGEMOTO			
BX	6,067,922	05/30/00	DENISON et al.			
BY	6,092,483	07/25/00	ALLEN et al.			
BZ	6,161,620	12/19/00	COX et al.			
CA	6,164,348	12/26/00	RODWELL et al.			
CB	6,179,524 B1	01/30/01	ALLEN et al.			
CC	6,193,441 B1	02/27/01	FISHER			
CD	6,213,045 B1	04/10/01	GABER			
CE	6,227,137 B1	05/08/01	ALLEN et al.			
CF	6,375,391 B1	04/23/02	BØRSETH et al.			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	CG	GB 2,069,450 A	08/1981	UNITED KINGDOM				
	CH	GB 2,133,446 A	07/1984	UNITED KINGDOM				
	CI	GB 2,156,407 A	10/1985	UNITED KINGDOM				

### OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	CJ		"Filament Wound Preforms for RTM"; SAMPE Journal, Vol. 36, No. 2, March/April 2000
	CK		"Riser with composite choke/kill lines ready for Gulf of Mexico trials"; Offshore, March 2000

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED